

CHAT ABOUT FREEMASONRY

MEETING OF FARMERS.

Four Thousand Tillers of the Soil Expected to be Present.

Latest Move on the Part of the Masonic Home Board—Work in the Blue Lodges—Knights Templar Propositions—Scottish Rite Matters.

Masonry is in a most flourishing condition in Richmond. There are ten Blue Lodges, three Royal Arch Chapters, two Commanderies, and all the Scottish Rite bodies. A most attractive feature of Masonry exists here that is not found in any other city in the United States, namely, a supper after every meeting, called the regalia. In New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other large cities, a banquet is served on "big nights" only. The Richmond masons do not attempt anything very stylish or elaborate, simply good, substantial suppers. In the fall of the year the supper consists of fish and oysters, salads and fruits, and tea and coffee. In the winter system is never style, together with cold roasts, soups, etc. In the spring and summer brother have their choice between trouts and lobsters and ice cream and berries. Only on very rare occasions is wine served.

THE MASONIC HOME.

The Board of Governors of the Masonic Home of Virginia has decided to organize an auxiliary Association of the Home, to be composed of Master Masons' wives and daughters, and as preparatory to such an organization have requested the assembling at the Home of a delegation of ladies for the purpose of discussing with them in due course the details of the enterprise. A committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Thompson Brown, L. S. Towner, and J. D. Weisiger, has made arrangements to convey to the ladies the aims and to entertain while there such ladies as shall be appointed by the various masters of the lodges, and such ladies as may be appointed to represent the lodges will have dinner with them, in due time full information and tickets for transportation to and from the Home.

CRAFT MASONRY.

Temple Lodge, No. 3—Bapt. T. Grinnell, worshipful master—met last Friday week. In the absence of Secretary W. E. Turner, Mr. C. A. Nesbit kept the minutes. There was no work, though candidates are not lacking.

Last Monday night Fraternal Lodge, No. 32, conferred the M. M. degree on two candidates. On Tuesday night St. John's Lodge, No. 36, passed three candidates to the F. & C. degree.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 11, met Thursday night, but conferred no degrees.

Dove Lodge, No. 31, met Friday night and revised the by-laws. The delegates for delegates to attend on account of sickness. The Worshipful Master, Fuller Patterson, announced the death of Mr. B. Montague, which took place in Washington. There was a short silence, and stated that he had arranged to have the deceased buried with Masonic honors in that city. The lodge was closed with full ceremony, Rev. Preston Nash acting as chaplain, and Mr. John B. Frieskorn presiding at the organ.

Lafayette Royal Arch Chapter No. 43 will probably confer the Royal Arch degree at its regular meeting on the third Thursday.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The Commandery of St. Andrew, No. 15, will act on its proposed new by-laws at the next assembly, one feature of which is the suspension of meetings during the months of June, July, and August.

The Commandery of St. George, No. 2, is wrestling with the proposition to organize a drill corps.

The discussion on this question at the next assembly will be exceedingly interesting. The young members favor a drill corps. The older ones, several of them at least, oppose it.

THE A. & SCOTTISH RITE.

All the rites of Masonry there are a number of them in the world, with the three degrees—Entered Apprentice, Fellow of the Craft, and Master Mason. These three degrees in Great Britain and her colonies, and in the United States, are conferred according to the Scottish Rite Council given the following definition of Free Masonry: "The order is, or ought to be, an association of intelligent, virtuous, disinterested, generous, and devout men, regarding each other as brothers, and bound by the obligations of brotherhood to render each other mutual assistance, and Freemasonry is a system and school, not only of morals, but of political and religious philosophy, suggested by its adherents and concurred in by the mass."

Including in its several degrees of knighthood a chivalric order, requiring the practice and performance of the highest duties of the man, the citizen, the patriot, and the soldier." The Scottish Rite is an active follower of the Light, a constant student in all its degrees to deitate the divine that is in man, the spiritual portion of his conformed nature, his reason and his moral sense, and makes dominant over all the animal, human, earthly, material portion of his nature, his emotions and his sensual appetites.

Edwin A. Sherman, of California, vice-president of the National Convention of Masonic Veteran Associations, and well-known Masonic writer, says: "There are no more causes for jealousy or conflict existing between the two Rites, York or American and the Scottish Rite; and only the ignorant, narrow-minded and bigoted, who are incapable of appreciating more like lamps filled with wick, with but a small quantity of oil. They give but little light, soon burn out, and end in darkness and smoke." As a matter of fact a large number of the grand lodges of the Grand Lodge of the Scottish Rite Masons without a single exception every past-grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States is a devotee Scottish Rite Mason.

The rituals of the Scottish Rite are so philosophical and deep that unless the bodies are offered by scholarly men the degrees cannot be conferred.

The Lodge of Perfection, of the Rite, was established in Richmond, twelve years ago, and is now in a most flourishing condition. At its annual meeting to-morrow night the fourth and fifth degrees will be conferred on a prominent State official. The ceremonies will be conducted by Professor W. O. English. He will be assisted by Rev. Hartie Carmichael, Hon. J. Taylor Ellyson, Hon. F. M. Moore, William Yule, Charles A. Newell, Fred. S. Valentine, A. R. Gandy, and others.

The great annual reunion of the Rite for Virginia will take place at St. Andrew's in November, and the grand master of the Rite will be the second will be conferred, Hon. Robert E. Withers, Hon. John W. Daniel and other distinguished Masons will take part.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. G. A. Nesbit, commanding of Daddo's Consistory, No. 1, and others drove down to Captain A. G. Babcock's farm, and conferred on Captain Babcock the thirty-second degree.

Before and after the ceremony the brethren were hospitably entertained.

The Scottish Rite is the Supreme Council of the thirty-third degree for the Southern jurisdiction of the United States, "whose Great See is in Charleston, in the State of South Carolina," but whose present home is in Washington. This is the ranking rank of the Rite, and it was the first organized council, having been formed in Charleston in 1891. Prior to that time, say from the middle of the last century, the Rite had floated around in Europe and America without any supreme head. General Alfred Pike has been the Grand Commander since 1859.

Golden Grail.

The following officers of Germania Commandery, Order of Golden Grail, No. 55, were elected at the recent meeting: Capt. Walton, Com. A. E. Ulke; Vice C. A. J. Guerrier; Prelate, A. H. Lanzer; Scribe, Joseph E. Oeschel; Master of Finance, F. E. Tholl; Master Eschequer, F. W. Wagner; Master-at-Arms, Louis M. Pettis; Inspector Guard, George P. Dean; Outer Guards, Charles W. Vassar; Trustee, Edward Clark; Captain, George P. Dean, and B. Weinberg.

Speaking in the County.

Brookland Democratic Club, which is one of the best-organized clubs in this section, will have a flag-raising and public speaking to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock. Hon. John T. Sanderson and Jefferson Wallace.

Are you aware that carpets collect and hold a great deal of impure and unwholesome matter, and that the carpet-cleaning department of Mrs. A. J. Pyle has especial facilities for removing such impurities? Her method of scouring carpets is the very best, in fact she has one of the most complete carpet-cleaning establishments to be found anywhere.

Meeting of Farmers.

The first Farmers' Institute ever held in Virginia will meet September 23rd and 24th at Mr. R. B. Chaffin's farm ("Chatsworth"), three miles below Richmond. The meeting will take place there at the request of the farmers of the Third Congressional district, who some time ago requested the State Board of Agriculture to call a general and annual meeting in this section. Since these arrangements have constantly been made, and it is fully expected that the meeting will be a complete success.

The objects of the meeting are to discuss the most profitable ways of farming, and to be educated because his facilities in dairying are unsurpassed in this section of the State. He has one hundred and eight head of cattle, and with the exception of milk-production, the entire care of the cattle is in charge of his son. It can thus be seen that "Chatsworth" offers extra inducements to persons to attend who are interested in dairying and dairy products, and it is very probable that many such men will come from other sections to the meeting, with two sessions today, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. They will be held in a wing of a large barn, which will seat over a thousand persons, and President Koimer, of the State Board of Agriculture, will preside. The Board of Agriculture is to present, and a number of agriculturists and scientific men will be present and take part in the proceedings.

PROSPEROUS SUMMER.

This summer the club has been a very prosperous one. The boat-house on May's Island has been neatly painted, and improved in every respect. Bath-rooms, shower baths, locker, reading-rooms, and other accommodations can be had on the second floor; the first floor being occupied by the boats. During this year the club has paid off \$1,000,000, and the boat-house \$1,000,000, and the last regatta held in Richmond. The attendance has been very good, almost all the boats being used in the evening.

Next year it is hoped that a regatta will be held. Several of the club's prominent members have Regattas in hand, and it is consummated it will be one of the grandest ever seen in Virginia.

BEST CREW.

The best senior crew in the club is composed of Messrs. David Edmunds, A. S. Petruccio, W. F. Braxton, and George King.

What the club wants is heavy-weight rowers, and the Hawkes boat-puller.

Everything will be told from actual experience and scientific investigation, and such meetings cannot fail to be of interest to those who attend.

The Committee of Local Arrangements and Colonel Normand Smith, A. L. Sturges, J. K. Fussell, Frank Gray, R. B. Chaffin, W. O. Mosby, George Watt, H. A. Bellin, C. G. Goddin, Charles King, of Henrico, Mr. C. C. Clegg, of Petersburg, Mr. W. H. Mullins, Mr. R. T. Levy, of New Kent; W. A. Willard, of King William; and Mr. Holland, of Goochland.

OVER \$6,000,000 INCREASE.

Result of the Assessment, and a Comparison.

Messrs. Alton Stokes, John Enders, Sr., and O. M. Newell, the assessors appointed to fix the valuation of houses and lots in the city of Richmond, have completed their work, and on Monday their report will be filed with the City Auditor, Mr. Miles Turner, and the Board of Public Accounts, Comptroller of the Commonwealth.

The assessors have had an arduous task, one that took a great deal of time, and carried into its execution an amount of hard out-door work in the hottest months of the year, and, of course, made their work difficult, and will be present at the session.

According to the books of the assessors, the assessment shows the taxable values in each ward for the year 1890:

Marshall Ward.....\$2,577,183.00 Jefferson Ward.....\$6,475,562.00 Madison Ward.....\$6,024,021.00 Monroe Ward.....\$2,499,071.00 Jackson Ward.....\$2,666,071.00 Clay Ward.....\$10,483,863.00 Total.....\$49,31,234.00

The increase this year is as follows:

Marshall Ward.....\$2,700,550.00 Jefferson Ward.....\$6,547,562.00 Madison Ward.....\$6,024,021.00 Monroe Ward.....\$2,500,071.00 Jackson Ward.....\$2,676,071.00 Clay Ward.....\$10,492,863.00

In 1888, the time of the last assessment, it was \$21,000,000.

Marshall Ward.....\$2,718,191.00 Jefferson Ward.....\$6,451,562.00 Madison Ward.....\$6,015,021.00 Monroe Ward.....\$2,499,071.00 Jackson Ward.....\$10,483,863.00 Total.....\$49,31,234.00

A SHARP SWINDLER.

Gents a House, Makes Bills, and Leaves the City.

"Gone away dead Death in Family, return on Wednesday, Aug. 27." E. SMITH.

These words, written on a slip of white paper, tacked on the door of No. 14 West Main Street, were the last words of Capt. John J. King, a collector who had called at the door to collect his rent for the month of August 28th. The day was bright and warm. The house dark and closed.

More than a month before Captain King had left to make his rounds, he had called at the door to collect his rent, and his father was one of the contractors for supplies on the Pennsylvania Central railroad; that he came from Philadelphia, but had been living for some time at Hanover Court, a large residence, with a large family, and had a strong following in both parties.

Yesterday a telegram from Newark, N. J., announced that he was dead, sudden heart failure being the trouble. Mrs. Burgoon, his widow, and the son of his father, the dead collector, and the son of his death, had died together and draped with paper to keep any from looking in.

While here Smith ran up a little bill for groceries at Mr. King's store, which he left unpaid, in addition to his rent—\$30. Several days later, the collector had called at the door to get his rent due, and the dead man had gone, and found him sleeping in the house.

The building was taken from the 21st of July, and Smith and his wife and five children moved in. Whether any furniture accompanied them or not, or when the neighbors can say, and as to when the family moved away the folks around are equally ignorant.

The building was then broken into, and it was found that every door in the house had been locked, and the door to the kitchen had been tied together and draped with paper to keep any from looking in.

While here Smith ran up a little bill of \$20 for groceries at Mr. King's store, which he left unpaid, in addition to his rent—\$30.

Several days later, the collector had called at the door to get his rent due, and the dead man had gone, and found him sleeping in the house.

Misses Mary and Minnie and Master Carter Oberlin, children of Mr. H. C. Oberlin, No. 546 south Eleventh street, have returned to the city after spending the summer with friends in the country.

Mr. S. F. Gilliland, formerly of the Manchester Leader, now of the Clarksville News, was in the city yesterday.

AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

The following suits were instituted yesterday: Elbert Wagstaff against Mrs. James King, damages, \$200.

The Company against J. H. Sibley, damages, \$200.

W. B. Ross against W. J. Payne, debt, \$20,531.

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